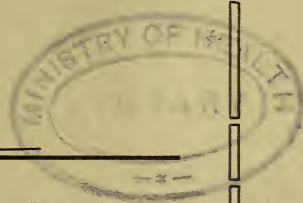


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Rural District Council of
Bridlington.



SANITARY AUTHORITY.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925

OF

P. D. H. CHAPMAN, M.B., B.Ch., Camb.

Medical Officer of Health for the District.

BRIDLINGTON :

F. L. Lee, High Street Printing Works.

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REPORT, 1925.

BRIDLINGTON,

26TH APRIL, 1926.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District of Bridlington during 1925.

This Report by the request of the Minister of Health is to be a Survey Report. In addition to the usual information therefore it is required that the measure of progress made in your area during the preceding five years, in the improvement of the public health, should be recorded. Any future action considered desirable in the organisation or development of public health services should also be indicated.

Further, a general survey is to be made of the present organisation and activities of the public health service in your area.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The superficial contour is a gentle slope inclining from the Yorkshire Wolds to the North to the Plain of Holderness to the South. High hills and steep valleys are absent. The highest point is about 400 feet above the sea level. The land comprised is chiefly arable and farming lands and there is very little uncultivated.

The general aspect of the District though somewhat bare to the North is well wooded to the low-lying Southern district. The upper chalk is close to the surface all over the Northern part of the district, with the usual faults and flaws, and is a good average water-bearing stratum.

The Southern lower-lying part of the District shows more tertiary and post-tertiary deposits, and is covered generally with a thick layer of clay. Above this is a subsoil of sand and gravel and a good layer of loam. The thickness and density of the chalk beneath some of the villages makes their water supply a matter of difficulty, and the nearness of others to the sea and the small height above the sea level add to the problem.

One small stream flows through the area, entering the District at Wold Newton and reaching the sea at Bridlington Harbour, but for a large part of its course the stream runs underground in normal years. After a winter with much rain or a heavy snowfall the stream reappears on the surface for its whole length. Its re-appearance is held by local tradition to presage national trouble, hence the name "woe-waters" given to it. The stream appeared on the surface in February of this year, after an interval of seven years. There are several national troubles to select according to choice, from the income tax to Mr. A. J. Cook.

The area of the District is 62,000 acres, or roughly a hundred square miles. The District is divided for registration purposes into three Sub-Districts: Rural Bridlington, Hunmanby and Skipsea. Each Sub-District has in it one large village and several smaller ones and scattered units of population.

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The total population enumerated in the census of 1921 was 8,154, and the estimated population for 1925 is 7,830.

The total population given in the census of 1911 and 1901 was 7,732 and 7,689 respectively. The population is therefore practically stationary. In ten years, from 1911 to 1921, the increase is only 100 persons. The number of inhabited houses however has increased by 123 during the same period. The social advantages of a stationary population are great, and accordingly there is none of the grinding poverty, misery and vice that overcrowding brings. As a matter of fact, the stationary population is not due, in this district, to there being no excess of births over deaths, but to the fact that the excess population is spilled into the towns and in some cases into the Colonies. The results however are the same for the District whatever they may be for the already overcrowded towns.

The social conditions then of the population are on the whole decidedly good. The occupation of the inhabitants is almost

entirely concerned with agriculture and allied occupations, with the exception of a diminishing number engaged in fishing at Flamborough. There are no factories. The occupations followed, therefore, can have none but a favourable influence on the public health.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

Amongst the population in the District there was distributed in out-relief during the year ended March, 1925 (the latest return available) a total sum of £800 divided amongst 61 single persons or heads of families. This gives the insignificant average sum of about 2/- per head per annum of the entire population. Indoor poor, including sick poor, are maintained in the Union Institution at Bridlington, and there are resident there generally about 25 persons whose domicile is or was in the Rural District. Gratuitous medical aid is available from the District Poor Law Medical Officers.

Inmates of Mental Deficiency Institutions and of Lunatic Asylums numbered 19.

Total number of persons in receipt of Poor Law relief was 105 including Indoor and Outdoor relief and Mental Deficients and Lunatics, which gives a rate of 1·34 per cent. of the estimated population, a very low percentage compared with most towns.

It is evident that your District is a fortunate one, and its naturally healthy condition has been greatly bettered by continuous sanitary improvements carried out by the Council. The improvements carried out during the last five years will be enumerated later. Fortunately, as I think, there is no likelihood of coal being found in East Yorks., for, to misquote a Latin author: the discoverers too often "make a desert and call it progress."

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Supplied by the Registrar General.)

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	Birth-Rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.										Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years.	Total deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioner	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0		
105 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6		
157 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000-50,000)	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1		
London	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0		

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	62,828 acres
Population (estimated for 1925)	...	...	...	...	7,830
Separate Families or Occupiers	...	...	...	...	1,743
Separate Houses or other Dwellings	...	...	...	...	1,804
Rateable Value of the District (December, 1925)	...	...	...	...	£84,807
Assessable Value for Poor Law (December, 1925)	...	...	...	...	£42,194
Product of a Penny Rate in the £ is	..	...	...	...	£176

VITAL STATISTICS.

Marriages.

There were 46 marriages in the District during 1925, against 44 in 1924.

The marriage rate is 5·4 persons married in each 1,000 population.

Births and Birth-rates.

The total births in the District numbered 145, against 131, 163 and 147 in the three immediately preceding years.

The birth-rate for the year is 18·51 per 1,000 living, against 16·80, 20·7 and 19·97 for the three immediately preceding years.

Children born out of wedlock in the District numbered 20 and is at the rate of 18·51 per centum of the total births.

The birth-rate for England and Wales for the year is 18·3 per 1,000 living, as against 18·8, 19·7 and 20·6 for the three immediately preceding years, and is the lowest ever recorded except for the war years.

The last three years therefore have shown a steady fall in the birth-rate for England and Wales.

It has become a habit of some Medical Officers of Health of important cities in Yorkshire to bewail the falling birth-rate, and each year as the fall is seen to go on increasing, their ululations become more frantic; yet it must be evident from the number of our unemployed that England required a smaller rather than a larger population.

In point of fact, however, the population of England and Wales has not even reached the stationary state of neither increasing nor diminishing. The natural increase of population in England and Wales for the year 1925 by the excess of births over deaths is no less than **237,973**, or in other words, an excess of **652** babies per day.

The preoccupation of some people with the mere size of a population irrespective of quality resembles the mental attitude of the millionaire who considered that a picture should be priced according to the number of square feet of canvas.

Deaths and Death-rates.

The deaths from all causes and all ages, furnished by the Registrar General as properly belonging to the District, numbered 81, constituting a death-rate of 10·4 per 1,000 living, against 11·80, 10·50 and 12·3 for the three immediately preceding years.

The mortality-rate for England and Wales from all causes for 1925 is 12·2 per 1,000 living as against 12·2 and 11·6 for two preceding years.

The death-rate for the District therefore remains again lower than for England and Wales as a whole.

Eight children died in the first year of life, being in the proportion of 55 infantile deaths to each 1,000 registered births.

The infantile death-rate for England and Wales in this year is 75 per 1,000 registered births.

There was one infantile death among the illegitimate children.

55 of the deceased attained the age of 60 years or over with an average mean age of 73·4 years and a maximum of 97 years.

The annexed table of population, births and deaths and causes of deaths in 1925 is supplied by the Registrar General.

There were no deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases. Of infectious diseases influenza caused the highest death-rate, there being 9 deaths attributed to this disease.

There were no deaths attributed to puerperal fever, nor to accidents of parturition.

Causes of Death.				M.		F.
All Causes	...	...	...	46	...	35
Influenza	...	...	...	6	...	3
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	...	3
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	6	...	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	2	...	2
Heart Disease	...	..	..	3	...	3
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	4	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	3	...	3
Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	1	...	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	..	...	...	1	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	1	...	—
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	4	...	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	9	...	10
Deaths of infants under 1 year :						
Total	...	...	...	3	...	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	...	1
Total Births	...	...	...	80	...	65
Legitimate	...	...	...	69	...	56
Illegitimate	...	...	...	11	...	9
Population	...	...	...	7,830		

Case Rate of certain infectious diseases per 1,000 population,
Bridlington R.D.

Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever
—	·60	·24	·12	—
England and Wales.				
Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever
·14	2·36	1·23	·07	·06

Diseases Notified during the Year.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	...	...	...
Diphtheria	2	1	...
Scarlet Fever	5	3	...
Enteric Fever	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	1	...	...

Infectious Sickness.

There was a remarkable freedom from serious infectious disease during the year, but a very widespread epidemic of influenza raged in the Spring throughout the District and necessitated the closure of no fewer than eleven schools, interfering considerably with the work of education. An epidemic of influenza is a very troublesome thing to cope with, and there seems to be no method discovered of limiting the spread effectively.

Tuberculosis.

The following are the number of cases on my tuberculosis register at the end of December, 1925 :—

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Males	8	Males	4
Females	5	Females	3
Total	13	... ..	7

There were three deaths from Pulmonary and two from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

Vaccination.

Births registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Successfully Vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Insusceptible	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Removed to other Districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Conscientious Objectors	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Unaccounted for	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

The consciences of 75 parents therefore did not permit them to sanction the vaccination of their children. The tenderness of people's conscience these days is positively touching.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Eight specimens were submitted to Bacteriological examinations. Results :

Disease	Positive	Negative	Total
Tuberculosis	1	3	4
Diphtheria	1	2	3
Typhoid Group	1	0	1

General Provision of Health Services.

HOSPITALS AND SANATORIA. Cases of important Zymotic diseases are sent to the Bridlington Borough Sanatorium. Non-infectious acute medical and surgical cases are dealt with in the Lloyd Hospital at Bridlington.

Cases of Tuberculosis are taken to Raywell or Withernsea.

SMALL POX. The Rural District are parties to a joint scheme with the E. Yorks. County Council for the reception of Small Pox at Shiptonthorpe, which is about 25 miles away.

AMBULANCE. The Council possesses an up-to-date ambulance for the conveyance of infectious cases.

MATERNITY. There is no special hospital for maternity cases. Unmarried mothers are received by the Bridlington Union Infirmary.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. None in the area.

MIDWIVES. There are two registered midwives practising in the area.

The following are your Public Health Staff :—

Mr. Geo. Hankinson, A.S.A.A., Clerk to the Council.

Mr. P. D. H. Chapman, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.L., Camb., Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. F. H. Robson, Cert. Royal San. Inst., Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. C. F. Johnson, M.S.A., Building Surveyor.

All these officials are part-time officers.

WATER SUPPLY.

The villages of Flamborough, Sewerby, Bessingby and the private building estate known as Primrose Valley have a reliable pipe supply of water.

It was hoped that the important village of Hunmanby would come into this category, but for financial reasons this great improvement has not been carried further than the sinking of a very good well, which has now lain idle for many years. If the trade revival and return of prosperity that our politicians so confidently predict at the beginning of every year should ever take place, the completion of the main water supply for Hunmanby should be undertaken at once.

The great majority of the other villages have reliable supplies of water, some by means of steel tubes sunk through the upper chalk stratum. The water is raised by hand pump.

A few villages have only shallow wells, liable to pollution and to failure during a dry summer.

Four samples of water were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination and all were found to be of exceptional purity.

A new supply of water was provided for Carnaby by means of a deep boring.

HOUSING.

While there is no excess of houses, it cannot be said that there is much demand for increased numbers of houses, the population, as previously noted, remaining nearly stationary in the District.

What is chiefly wanted is the provision of new cottages to let at a rent within the means of the inhabitants, to replace many old and inconvenient cottages which would be better vacated.

The Council under the Addison Scheme erected 16 houses. Since then under Section 1 of the Act of 1919, the Council have certified for the lump-sum subsidy 10 houses erected by private persons, principally for their own occupation. Under the Act of 1923 the Council have adopted a small scheme comprising ten houses to be subsidised for erection of private buildings. Of these, at present, three have been taken up and are now in course of building.

OVERCROWDING. Cases of overcrowding are discovered from time to time and my attention is called to them by information given by Health Visitors. Two cases were brought to my notice this year. I investigated them. One was a family of seven children and the other of eight children. No action was taken. It is difficult to see how cases of this kind can be remedied. It would seem, perhaps, that prevention is better than cure.

The following details of house-building, etc., have been furnished by Mr. C. F. Johnson, M.S.A., our Building Surveyor.

January 1st, 1925, to December 31st, 1925.

Plans passed for Houses	...	...	...	...	12
„ Bungalows	...	...	...	...	12
„ Alterations to Houses	...	...	...	...	20
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	44
					<hr/>
Houses completed (4 over £16 per annum)	...	...	...	...	6
Bungalows completed	...	...	...	...	11
Alterations to Houses completed	...	...	...	...	19
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	36
					<hr/>

Building Bye-Laws were prepared in 1914.

Details of Inspections under the Housing Regulation of 1910, and under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, will be found in Inspector Robson's report.

Registered Workshops.

Agricultural Engineering, Motor and Brickworks	...	...	...	...	1
Brickworks	...	...	...	...	3
Ropery	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors, Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights...	...	...	...	...	31
					<hr/>
					36
					<hr/>

SANITATION.

No great change has taken place in the last five years in the system of sewerage or scavenging. Flamborough has an up-to-date sewage system. Other villages dispose of night-soil on the land. The two larger villages arrange for scavenging by contract. Practically all midden-prives have been converted to earth closets with galvanised pails.

There has been a steady improvement in the sanitation of the District, dating back over many years, and this improvement is reflected in the extraordinary low mortality from Scarlet Fever and other Zymotic diseases compared with 20 years ago. I am glad to see that the Mere at Flamborough is to be improved from a sanitary point of view.

I regret that the recommendation of my predecessor, Dr. Wetwan, in 1920, for the provision of latrine accommodation at the North Landing at Flamborough has not been carried out. Since

that date the number of visitors has very greatly increased owing to the multiplication of "charas." I should say that by providing a parking ground and levying a charge on cars using it, the money required could be raised for this most necessary purpose. A detailed report on Sanitary Inspections made and nuisances found will be found in Inspector Robson's careful report.

During the year the following new Orders from the Ministry of Health have come into force:—

(i.) Rural District Councils (Slaughter Houses) Order, Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

The purpose of these Orders is to insure that all slaughter houses shall be registered and that beasts shall not be slaughtered except in slaughter houses.

The Meat Regulations aim at securing that only sound carcases shall be offered for sale as meat and that meat for sale shall be protected from contamination by dirt and dust.

(ii.) Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act of 1915, which came into operation in September, 1925. It is framed to prevent the supply of milk likely to cause tuberculosis.

(iii.) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These regulations are framed to prevent persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis working in a dairy.

Summarising then briefly the progress made in the last five years in Public Health, it must be gratifying to the Council, as it is to myself, to realise the solid progress attained. Among the chief improvements are:—a ripe supply of pure water to Sewerby; a deep bore well for Carnaby; participation in the East Yorks. C.C. Small Pox Hospital, and the provision of an up-to-date motor ambulance.

I have been much indebted to Mr. Hankinson for his kindly help on many occasions, more especially in piloting me through the maze of past and present Public Health Acts.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the help I have received from Inspector Robson and from the Head Teachers of the various schools.

I beg to thank the Rural Council for their solid support and enthusiasm for Public Health and for their unfailing courtesy to myself.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. D. H. CHAPMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Rural District Council
and Sanitary Authority
of Bridlington.

BRIDLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Bridlington,
March, 1926.

Sir,

I have handed you details of the natural and administrative conditions prevailing in this area, for the purpose of your Survey Report upon the District, due for the year 1925. These shew that the District is fortunately situated as regards natural amenities, and that the favourable situation is not prejudiced by any counter-vailing artificial disadvantages arising from industrial or other conditions. This accounts in the greatest degree for the excellent standard of public health enjoyed hereabouts.

The cottage dwellings in the District do not shew much change as compared with a year ago, and such additions to the numbers as have been made are for owner-occupiers.

I have made a number of inspections of houses, and taken appropriate action where found necessary.

The cowsheds in the District are very numerous, many being occupied by the owners of a few cows who dispose of the milk produced to Dairy Companies in the adjoining towns. The greater number of them are quite satisfactory, but some of the smaller places are far from ideal. Most of the proprietors, too, are above complaint in their methods of conducting operations. Generally speaking it may be concluded that in this respect we maintain a good average of efficiency. There are no dealers in "graded milk."

The meat supplied to the District is by seven tradesmen who occupy registered slaughter-houses in the area, and by many with motor and horse vehicles who visit the villages from other places. None but good meat finds a sale in the neighbourhood, mostly from stock raised in the East and North Ridings of Yorkshire. Foreign meat is not accepted. The seven slaughter-houses are without question suitable premises, well found, and in good order.

As before, there are no "factories," and all the workshops and workplaces in occupation are satisfactory.

Infectious disease during 1925 was very light and almost insignificant. The one case of Enteric Fever notified during the year was that of a Leeds boy in a school camp, who was removed to the Borough Sanatorium within four days of his arrival at the camp.

The arrangements for scavenging are the same as hitherto, the two largest villages having been done by contract for many years past.

The water supply to Carnaby was considerably improved during the year, and in other villages minor works of maintenance were carried out. In some parishes water is not plentiful in dry weather, but there was no serious shortage experienced.

No extensive public sewerage works were found to be necessary during the year.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. ROBSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

To the
Medical Officer of Health.

Inspections under Article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922.

Dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	51
" notices served...	...	...	...	...	0
New houses built	...	...	...	...	17
Have Building Bye-Laws been adopted?	...	...	...	...	Yes
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of ordinary Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of Phthisis	...	...	...	...	1
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling-houses found overcrowded	...	...	...	...	2
Privies converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	0
" " Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	0
Offensive trades inspected	...	...	...	...	0
Total number of nuisances found	...	...	...	...	15
Total number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	15
Water Supplies—					
Houses newly supplied from water mains	...	...	...	...	7
New wells made	...	...	...	...	0
New bore-wells made	...	...	...	...	1
Wells closed, water unsafe	...	...	...	...	0
Samples of water sent for examination	...	...	...	...	4
Water certificates granted to new houses in Rural Districts	...	...	...	...	0
Dairies and Cowsheds—					
Have Regulations been adopted	...	...	...	...	Yes
Date of adoption	...	...	...	28th May, 1904	
No. of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register	...	...	...	...	101
No. of Cows	...	...	...	Varies considerably	
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	200
Defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	0
Slaughter-houses—					
No. on Register	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Visits to	...	...	...	...	35
No. of defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	0
Unwholesome Food condemned—					
Meat, Fish, Fruit, other Foods	...	...	...	...	0
Common Lodging Houses—					
No. on Register	...	...	...	...	0
Visits to	...	...	...	...	0
Defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	0
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	0

